

Application Serial No.: 09/675,180
Reply to Office Action dated November 5, 2003

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 11, 13, 14, 19, 20, 32, and 33 are presently active in this case, Claim 14 having been amended by way of the present Amendment.

The Applicants submit that the present Amendment places the application into condition for allowance. In the Official Action, Claims 11, 13, 19, 20, 32, and 33 were indicated as being allowed. Claim 14 has been amended to depend from allowed Claim 11, and thus Claim 11 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants submit that the outstanding art rejection is moot.

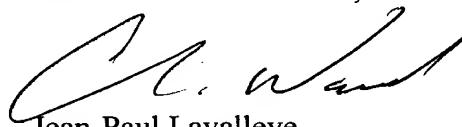
The Applicants request acknowledgement of the consideration of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 9, 2003. Additionally, the Applicants request the listing of the Bloch et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,780,150) on a PTO Form 892, since this reference was newly cited by the Examiner in the outstanding Official Action.

Application Serial No.: 09/675,180
Reply to Office Action dated November 5, 2003

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Jean-Paul Lavallee
Registration No. 31,451
Attorney of Record

Christopher D. Ward
Registration No. 41,367

Customer Number

22850

Tel. (703) 413-3000
Fax. (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 10/01)

JPL:CDW:brf
I:\atty\cdw\192400US55X\am5.doc